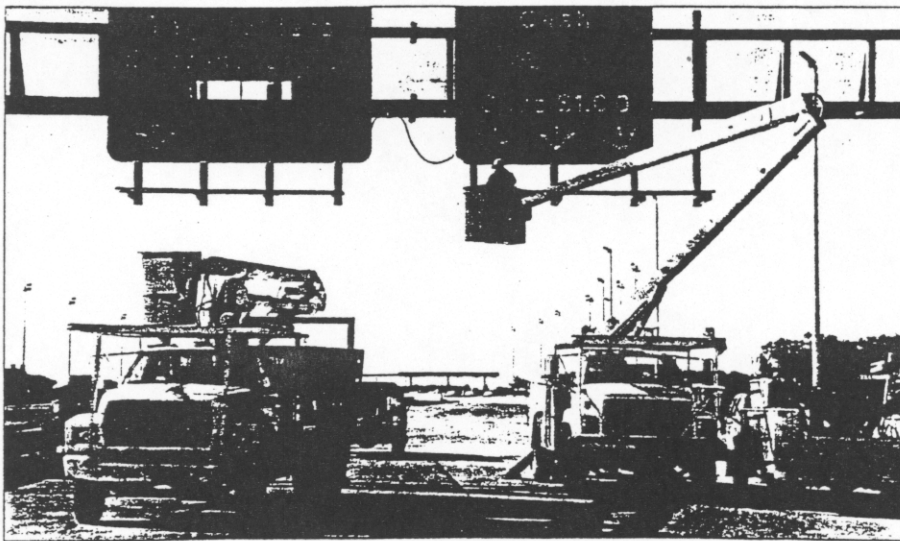


# Del. 1 lanes open today

THE NEWS JOURNAL ••• MONDAY, OCT. 18, 1999

Page 1 of 2



Highway crews work on signs leading to toll booths on Del. 1 at St. Georges on the south side of the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal bridge Thursday. "It's going to be a hectic day for us, and it's going to be a hectic day for [motorists]," said Javier Torrijos, an engineer for the Department of Transportation. Road crews plan last-minute work today.

## Officials ask motorists to use alternate routes

By **CHIP GUY**  
Staff reporter

The newest segment of the state's nearly \$1 billion Del. 1 project should open partially today, but highway officials are advising motorists to avoid the road — at least for today.

Eleven miles of the limited-access highway's southbound lanes, from the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal to the Appoquinimink River, are scheduled to open by noon. The northbound lanes of Del. 1 will open in November.

Forecasters are calling for rain to end and partial clearing later today, but the opening could be pushed back a day if conditions aren't favorable. Officials said they will decide early today.

Highway officials acknowledged opening day will be rough and are encouraging motorists in southern New Castle County to find alternate routes around Del. 1 and U.S. 13 today.

"It's going to be a hectic day for us, and it's going to be a hectic day for [motorists] if they stay on southbound Route 1," said Javier Torrijos, expressways construction area engineer for the

Delaware Department of Transportation.

Road crews plan to perform last-minute work — striping, installing barriers and laying asphalt — before shifting traffic onto the new portion of the highway. That could create major delays in southbound lanes at the canal and around Odessa.

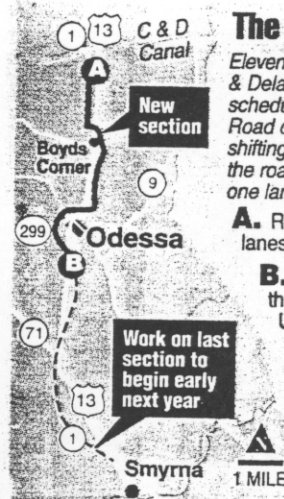
Tie-ins between the new highway and parallel U.S. 13 can only be finished the day the road opens, said David Duke, the transportation department's resident project engineer.

That will require lane closures from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Duke said.

The three southbound lanes of Del. 1 just above the canal will shrink to one lane before the bridge, and the two lanes of Del. 1 south will merge into one lane where the highway rejoins U.S. 13 just south of Odessa.

"There's so much that's going to be going on out there, and so much coordination," Torrijos said. "We have to make it safe, not only for our people, but for the traveling public."

Highway officials want drivers to use the U.S. 301-Del. 896-Del. 71 corridor or Del. 9 to make their way south, said Mike Williams, a transportation department spokesman. Northbound travel shouldn't be a problem, officials said.



Source: DelDOT

### The opening of Del. 1 south

Eleven miles of southbound lanes, from the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal to the Appoquinimink River, are scheduled to open today.

Road crews plan to perform last-minute work before shifting traffic onto the new portion of the highway. Until the road opens, southbound traffic will be confined to one lane.

**A.** Road crews are expected to begin blocking off lanes at and above this point at 7 a.m. today.

**B.** Workers will begin paving the tie-in between the new southbound lanes of Del. 1 to existing U.S. 13. Work is expected to begin at 7 a.m.

When work is completed, state troopers and highway crews will stop traffic as it comes over the new C&D Canal bridge. A rolling roadblock will escort traffic down the 11 miles of the highway until reaching the Appoquinimink River.

The News Journal

"If nobody heeds the warnings, there are going to be delays because of sheer volume," Williams said.

The almost-completed section of Del. 1 has taken three years

CONT. Next Page.....